



ISMM

International Society
for Mountain Medicine

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR MOUNTAIN MEDICINE BYLAWS

Unanimously adopted by the constituent meeting in Geneva on 6 December 1985.

Revisions approved by the General Assembly in October 2000, Arica

Revisions approved by the General Assembly in April 2002, Barcelona

Revisions approved by the General Assembly in August 2010, Arequipa

Revisions approved by the General Assembly in June 2021, Interlaken

Revisions approved by the General Assembly in May 2026, Hathersage

I. GENERAL

Article 1 Name, duration, registered office and language

- a) Under the name "**International Society for Mountain Medicine**" (hereinafter "ISMM"), an association within the meaning of Articles 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code is established at the place of its registered office and shall be entered in the commercial register. The association is politically and religiously independent.
- b) The duration of the association is unlimited.
- c) The registered office is located in the municipality of Bern.
- d) The official language of the association is German. For conferences, congresses, and general correspondence, English or – if translation facilities are available – the language of the host location may be used.

These bylaws are drawn up in both German and English. If there are differences in content between the two versions, the German version of the statutes prevails.

Article 2 Aims and purpose

- e) The ISMM pursues exclusively medical, scientific and educational objectives and has the following purposes:
 - (1) To create an international scientific organisation that brings together physicians, researchers, nurses, paramedical professionals and organisations or societies interested in mountain medicine in its broadest sense.
 - (2) To promote research, studies, discussions and publications on all medical aspects of mountains, mountain peoples and mountaineers.
 - (3) To compile scientific and applied documentation and promote cooperation with existing data centres.
 - (4) To provide information through electronic and printed publications for physicians and other individuals interested in the scientific study of mountain medicine issues.
 - (5) To promote, support and organise work, information and educational meetings.
 - (6) To establish and operate an "e-medicine" service and an emergency network in the field of mountain medicine.
 - (7) The periodic organisation of international conferences.
 - (8) Establishing effective relationships with mountaineering organisations, the scientific community and public services.
- f) The association does not pursue any commercial purposes and does not seek to make a profit. Its organs work on a voluntary basis.

II. MEMBERS

Article 3 Members

- a) Members of the ISMM can be physicians, researchers, mountain guides, nurses, paramedical personnel, mountain rescue personnel, students in these fields, and national mountain medicine societies.
- b) Application for individual membership is achieved through the ISMM website membership portal.
- c) Applications for national mountain medicine societies must be submitted in English to the Executive Committee, which makes the final decision on admission.

Article 4 Membership categories

There are five categories of membership:

- (1) **Full member:** A person who is interested in mountain medicine. A person who is already a member of a national association or society for mountain medicine receives a discount on the membership fee.
- (2) **Student member:** A person who is studying health sciences.
- (3) **Exempt member:** A person whose membership fee is waived by the Executive Committee at the request of the member or the President.
- (4) **Honorary member:** Title awarded by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Executive Committee to persons who render or have rendered important services to the ISMM or the field of mountain medicine.
- (5) **Societies:** national mountain medicine societies.

Article 5 Termination of membership

Membership expires upon non-payment of dues, resignation, death or expulsion.

Article 6 Resignation and expulsion

- d) Resignation from the association is possible at the end of an association year. The letter of resignation must be sent in writing via post or email to the Executive Committee at least four (4) weeks before the end of the association year (date of postmark).
- e) A member may be expelled from the association at any time for non-payment of the annual membership fee or for other valid reasons (in particular, violation of the statutes, violation of the aims and purposes of the association). The Executive Committee shall decide on expulsion; the member may appeal the expulsion decision to the General Assembly.

Article 7 Membership fees

The annual membership fee is determined by the General Assembly. All members – except honorary members and members exempted in this regard – pay an annual membership fee. The Executive Committee may grant individual members free membership for one year, which may be renewed annually upon request.

III. ORGANISATION

Article 8 Organs

The organs of the ISMM are as follows:

- (1) the General Assembly;
- (2) the Council (if one has been established);
- (3) the Executive Committee;
- (4) the working groups (if such have been established);
- (5) the auditors.

Article 9 The General Assembly

b) Composition:

The supreme body of the association is the General Assembly, consisting of the association members defined in Article 3.

c) Date of the ordinary General Assembly:

The ordinary General Assembly takes place every two years.

d) Convocation and proposed agenda items:

The General Assembly shall be announced to members in writing or electronically at least one month before the date of the meeting, stating the agenda.

Motions for the agenda (agenda items) to be dealt with at the General Assembly must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee (for the attention of the president) at least seven (7) days before the deadline for convening the meeting.

e) Extraordinary General Assembly:

Extraordinary General Assemblies may be convened by decision of the Executive Committee or upon written or electronic request by at least one fifth of the members, stating the agenda. The extraordinary assembly must take place within two (2) months of receipt of the notice of convocation.

f) Form of the General Assembly:

The General Assembly may be held in person, in writing or digitally via an online conference room or live stream with a chat function for discussion and voting. The Executive Committee shall decide on the form of the General Assembly, which shall be announced to the members together with the notice of convocation. The Executive

Committee ensures that all members have the opportunity to participate in the meeting (in particular in any discussions) and to exercise their voting and election rights.

g) Responsibilities:

The General Assembly has the following inalienable tasks and powers:

- (1) Election of the members of the Executive Committee and the auditors;
- (2) Approval of the minutes of the last General Assembly;
- (3) Approval of the annual report of the Executive Committee ;
- (4) Receiving the audit report and approving the annual accounts;
- (5) Discharge of the Executive Committee ;
- (6) Setting of membership fees;
- (7) Approval of the annual budget;
- (8) Resolution on motions submitted by the Executive Committee and members;
- (9) Appointment and dismissal of the Council;
- (10) Appointment and dismissal of working groups;
- (11) Resolving on amendments to the bylaws;
- (12) Resolutions on the dissolution of the association and the use of the liquidation proceeds.

h) Quorum and minutes:

Every duly convened General Assembly shall constitute a quorum, regardless of the number of members present.

The members pass their resolutions by a simple majority, subject to other statutory or legal quorums. In the event of a tie, the chairperson has the casting vote.

Resolutions on amendments to the Articles of Association and the dissolution of the Association require the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present.

One set of minutes shall be taken of the resolutions passed.

i) Voting:

Every ~~active~~ member in accordance with Article 4 (in the case of companies or societies, a person authorised to represent them) is entitled to vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

Article 10 The Council

j) Objectives:

The Council aims to increase the international character of the association, promote contacts between ISMM members at national level and cooperate with other national associations, federations or societies.

k) Council members:

If a Council is appointed by the General Assembly, it shall be composed as follows:

- (1) A maximum of two persons from the Executive Committee
- (2) Representatives of national societies

In addition, the Council shall constitute itself.

- l) Council members from the Executive Committee
The maximum of two council members from the association's Executive Committee must hold the position of president or vice-president and are appointed and dismissed by the Executive Committee.
- m) National representatives (election and term of office):
Each country with at least ten (10) full ISMM members is entitled to one seat on the Council (known as national representatives).

The national representatives are elected by the ISMM members who are resident in the respective country for a term of four (4) years. Re-election is possible. The elections are organised by the association's Executive Committee and can be conducted in writing or electronically.

- n) Tasks and responsibilities of national representatives:
The national representative is responsible for promoting the activities of the ISMM at national level in the country he or she represents, in conjunction with other national associations, federations or societies where appropriate, and for representing the interests of his or her country on the Council and at the General Assembly.
- o) Establishment and dissolution:
The appointment and dissolution of the Council shall be decided by the General Assembly.
- p) Resignation and expulsion:
Except for the end of the term of office, membership of the Council shall be lost through death, resignation, dismissal, expulsion from the Council or expulsion from the national association. Expulsion from the Council requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes of the Council.
- q) Meetings:
The Council meets with the Executive Committee at least once every two years. Participation by post, email or virtual is possible. Important decisions shall be taken by secret ballot and by simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Council President has the casting vote.

Article 11 The Executive Committee

- r) Composition:
The Executive Committee consists of at least five, and as many as ten, regular members and is composed as follows:
 - (1) President
 - (2) President-elect
 - (3) Past-president (Secretary General)
 - (4) Treasurer

(5) Up to six vice-presidents

Ex-officio members are not regular members of the Executive Committee but participate in its work in accordance with internal arrangements determined by the Committee:

- (1) President of the next upcoming congress
- (2) Editor of High Altitude Medicine and Biology HAMB
- (3) Deputy editor(s) of HAMB
- (4) Representative of the Wilderness Medical Society WMS
- (5) Representative of the UIAA Medical Commission
- (6) Representative of the ICAR Medical Commission
- (7) Representative of the Asian Pacific Society of Mountain Medicine APSMM

- s) Representation:
The Executive Committee should represent the different regions and continents of the members.
- t) Election and nomination rights:
- i. The President, President-elect and up to six Vice-Presidents are elected by the General Assembly and selected from among its members.
 - ii. The President may not serve two consecutive terms.
 - iii. The President-elect should be elected two years before taking office as President in order to familiarise themselves with their future role.
 - iv. The Vice-Presidents are proposed to the General Assembly by the Executive Committee and may serve two consecutive terms if re-elected. After reaching term limit as a Vice President, one is still eligible for the President's position.
 - v. The treasurer, the editor and the deputy editors of High Altitude Medicine and Biology are proposed to the General Assembly by the Executive Committee. Re-election is possible without restriction.
 - vi. The Medical Commissions of the UIAA and ICAR and the boards of the APSMM and WMS propose the members representing them for election to the General Assembly. Re-election is possible without restriction.
 - vii. The members of the Executive Committee are elected for a term of four years, except for the President-elect and the President of the next upcoming congresses.
- u) Loss of membership on the Executive Committee:
Membership of the Executive Committee may be lost through death, resignation or expulsion, which must be decided unanimously by the remaining members of the Executive Committee.
- v) Vacancy:
In the event of a vacancy on the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee decides whether an extraordinary General Meeting should be convened to fill the seat in less time than provided for in the Articles of Association.
- w) Meetings:
The Executive Committee shall meet as often as it deems necessary for the proper functioning of the Association, but at least twice a year. Any member of the Executive

Committee may request the President to convene a meeting, stating the reasons for doing so, which must be held within two months of the request. Important decisions are taken by secret ballot and by a simple majority, at the request of a member of the Executive Committee. In the event of a tie, the President has the casting vote.

Virtual meetings are equivalent to face-to-face meetings. Decisions may be taken by circular letter (in writing or electronically). Virtual meeting times will attempt to account for the widest possible array of international time zones.

x) Tasks of the Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee manages the day-to-day business and represents the association externally. It issues regulations and may employ or commission persons to achieve the association's objectives in return for appropriate remuneration. The Executive Committee has all the powers that are not assigned to another body by law or in accordance with these Articles of Association.

The Executive Committee may delegate all or part of its management duties to one or more managing directors in accordance with the regulations.

y) Representation and signing authority:

The association is represented externally by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee determines who is authorised to sign and how the signature is to be made.

Article 12 Working groups

z) Objectives:

The association is divided into working groups according to areas of interest. These working groups are composed of persons from one or more specialist areas.

aa) Management:

For each group, a secretary is elected by the members of that group to be responsible for it. He or she is responsible for the activities of that group and must present these activities to the General Assembly.

bb) Duration:

The duration of working groups is determined by the General Assembly and depends on the development of the interests of the group or the association. Unless explicitly limited by the General Assembly, the working group is considered to be established for an indefinite period until it is explicitly dissolved by the General Assembly.

cc) Establishment, tasks, dissolution and composition:

The establishment, definition of tasks and dissolution of a working group are determined by the General Assembly. The members of a working group are determined by the General Assembly. The members of a working group work on a voluntary basis.

Article 13 The auditors

- dd) The General Assembly elects two natural persons as auditors for a term of three years, with the possibility of re-election. The auditors may not be members of the Executive Committee at the same time. The audit may also be entrusted to a legal entity alone (e.g. a trust company, etc.).
- ee) The auditors check the association's accounts annually and submit a report to the General Assembly.
- ff) The annual report and financial statements shall be sent to or made available to all members at the latest when the ordinary General Assembly is convened.

IV. RESOURCES

Article 14 Composition

- a) The association's funds consist of:
 - (1) membership fees;
 - (2) voluntary contributions (donations, bequests, etc.);
 - (3) subsidies;
 - (4) income from events and the association's assets.
- b) Accounts must be kept in accordance with the statutory provisions.
- c) The financial year is the calendar year.

V. DISSOLUTION

Article 15 Dissolution

- a) The dissolution of the association can only be decided at a General Assembly convened specifically for this purpose. At least three quarters (3/4) of the members of the association must be present.
- b) If the required quorum is not reached, a second meeting shall be convened with at least 20 days' notice by registered letter to the members. This second General Assembly shall decide regardless of the number of members present.
- c) A majority of three quarters (3/4) of the votes present is required to decide on dissolution.
- d) In the event of dissolution of the association, the association's assets have to be transferred to a tax-exempt organisation pursuing the same or a similar purpose. Distribution of the association's assets among the members is excluded.

Article 16 Positive balance

In the event of dissolution, the positive balance has to be paid to an institution with a similar purpose designated by the dissolving meeting.